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D. McNALLIE'S Strawberry Catalogue.



Our plants are grown in soil Naturally Adapted for raising Plants and Berries, with all the Ingredients necessary to mature them perfectly without any assistance by artificial means, while in a great many sections the soil is of no use except to shade the roots and hold the food that is fed to the plants by hand. That plan may produce fat, our soil produces fat and muscle. That is what makes them work.



D. McNALLIE, Sarcoxie, Missouri.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

I take this opportunity of thanking my many customers of the past for their liberal patronage and the many kind words of encouragement received from them. It will be my constant study in the future, as it has been in the past, to try and give perfect satisfaction to my old, as well as new customers who entrust their orders to me, as my success, I feel confident, depends wholly on the satisfaction I may be able to give my patrons.

While I cannot come before you with the claim that I am a specialist in the strawberry plant business, but will leave it to your judgment whether my other occupation of raising and shipping berries is any disadvantage, or if it does not better qualify me for the business of raising and selling plants. In my case, I not only raise plants for sale, but also have a large acreage of plants at work in the field, under the same conditions that you will be using them, and in my opinion, it places me in a better position to watch the working qualities of a strawberry plant than any person who merely raises plants for sale under a high state of fertilization. While they may be perfectly honest in their descriptions and advice under those conditions, will it represent the conditions of the average berry grower in this section and others, where we have not yet been educated up to the necessity of using fertilizers freely?

LOCATION. We are located at Sarcoxie, Mo., in the Ozarks, near the southwest corner of the state, where in my opinion the natural advantages of soil are as perfect, if not the most perfect, for growing strawberry plants and berries of any place in the United States. Two miles south of Sarcoxie on Frisco Railroad; Wells Fargo express.

GUARANTEE. We guarantee our plants true to name, and will replace them free of charge if they prove not to be so; well rooted and from new beds that have never fruited. While we do not claim to raise better plants than any one else on earth, we do claim that we raise them better than some, and as good as the others.

FILLING ORDERS. We commence filling orders as early as we can dig plants in the spring, about March 1st; though we frequently have warm spells during the winter that we can take up plants if needed. We will not fill any orders after May 10th, as we do not think the plants are then in condition to give satisfaction. A great deal of their vitality has been used to form foliage and fruit.

WHEN TO ORDER. Order early by all means, while the plants are in a dormant condition before they commence to grow in the spring; they will ship better, stand more neglect and rough usage, and will start off better when set out. Allow time enough before you need the plants, so that

if we are crowded and you should have to wait a day or two, it will not inconvenience you. The best plan is to order a week or two ahead, and state the date you wish them shipped. Another advantage in ordering early, is that our stock is complete and you are sure of getting all your order filled.

SUBSTITUTING. We will not substitute any variety for those ordered, without permission. Would advise you to permit such substituting if it can be done with plants equally as good for the purpose wanted, as it might save time if we should be out of the kinds ordered, especially late in the season when a day or two is very important.

PREPARING PLANTS. We clean all plants of dead leaves and runners, and tie in bunches of 50, every bunch plainly labeled. When plants are received, take them out of packages and examine them carefully. If you have a dry, cool cellar and expect to use them in a week or so, they will keep just as well there as to heel them in the ground, provided you do not cover the crowns. There is less liability of getting the plants mixed than where you open the bunches to heel them out, and you cannot be too careful about mixing your plants.

GREAT ADVANTAGE. Our great advantage in filling orders is on account of each department of the work, from the digging of the plants until they are packed, being under the careful supervision of some one of our own family who understands the business, and is just as anxious that every customer may be well pleased, as I am. This, in my opinion, is a great advantage over hired hands, whose principal interest, generally, is their daily pay.

TERMS. One-third cash with order, balance before plants are shipped. We will ship by express C. O. D., if one-third of the amount accompanies the order, purchaser to pay return charges on the money.

MY STOCK. We have a nice large stock of plants for sale this season. I solicit large as well as small orders. Can furnish them by the dozen or by the million, all from my own fields. I will furnish no plants except my own growing, as I tried buying plants to fill orders, and found it a failure. I know my own fields are pure but do not know whether others are or not, for that reason I refuse to accept orders that I cannot fill from my own grounds.

REMITTANCE. May be made by St. Louis, Chicago or New York draft, postoffice or express order, or where none of these can be had, by registered letter.

REFERENCE. First National Bank. State Bank, Postmaster, express agent or any business house at Sarcoxie, Mo.

Description of Plants.

✓ **Aroma.** (S) This, without doubt, is the leading late berry grown in this section of country. There is more of it being planted than any other one variety. While it commences ripening a little earlier than Gandy it generally lasts as long, is much more productive, and there is no berry outsells it on the market. I never have had plants enough of this variety to supply the demand. I have a large acreage this season and hope to be able to fill all orders. If you have not tried it don't fail to order some.

✓ **Aug. Luther.** (S) This is a new berry with me; have not fruited it but it is highly recommended as one of the earliest berries, the same season as Excelsior.

✓ **Bubach.** (P) This berry is extensively grown on account of its large size and productiveness. It is rather a poor plant maker, but I think that is the main reason of its success in maturing large fine fruit. Desirable for home use or near market.

✓ **Bush Cluster.** (P) A new one with me; have not fruited it; recommended highly by some, and condemned by others.

✓ **Bobolink.** (S) New. Have not fruited it. Claimed to be the earliest of them all. Same shape and size as Gandy, and a week earlier than Mitchel. (Could you ask for more?)

✓ **Benoy.** (S) A very large, fairly productive berry, poor plant maker; about same season as Bubach; firm for so large a berry.

✓ **Beverly** (S) From medium to large in size, a good shipper, productive, color dark red, a good pollenizer and a good plant maker.

✓ **Bismark** [S] It has been expected that this berry would supersede the Bubach, but I do not believe it will; it is better in some respects and not so good in others. It is as productive, a better shipper, more uniform in shape and a better plant maker, but is not as extremely large, and some object to its light color, but for a commercial berry I think it will pay the grower better to raise it than the Bubach. It is very productive, large, firm, fine foliage, uniform in shape and size; short season, it ripens its fruit in piles after the first two or three pickings. Medium in season; a fine pollenizer; a good one.

✓ **Barton Eclipse** [P] This is a large, productive berry; it rusts some, but it does not seem to hurt it in producing a large crop of fine large berries that hold up well in shipping. I am satisfied there are plenty of other berries not half as good being used more extensively than the Barton. It is medium to late.

✓ **Clyde.** [S] It will neither stand wet weather nor hot sun, either one will rot nearly all of the largest, nicest berries. Another objection,

they turn red on top side two or three days before ripe enough on bottom to pick and make a great deal of trouble about picking them in the right condition. Pickers get tired of turning them and frequently pick them too green. It is very productive and some of the berries are extremely large, but very irregular in size and shape. It is medium early and does not last long. I like it better for a pollenizer than for fruit.

✓ **Crescent** [P] One of the very oldest varieties grown at the present time. While it is discarded in most sections, it is largely grown in other places yet on account of its season and productiveness. The first pickings are generally good size but run down in size very quickly and become soft.

✓ **Darling** [S] This berry was put out as being as early as Mitchel and several times as productive; it is more productive but not as early; it is about the same season as Clyde or Bismark, a prolific plant maker and fairly productive of medium sized berries.

✓ **Downing's Pride** [P] Fruited this last season, and if it is safe to give an opinion on one year's trial, I would class this with one of my very best berries. It was very large, firm and productive. it held up well to the very last picking. I think it well worthy of trial by all strawberry growers. Mid season. fair plant maker. My stock of it is small, I can't think you will regret ordering a few for trial.

✓ **Excelsior** [S] This is claimed by most growers to be earlier than Mitchel. I think they commence ripening the same time, but in my opinion the Excelsior, after two or three days, ripens much faster than the Mitchel; in that way it gives more extremely early berries than the Mitchel. Foliage dark and tall, a good plant maker. I think it is a little more productive than the Mitchel, a nicer looking berry and a much better shipper. While I think it is possibly an improvement in some respects over Mitchel, I do not believe it is four times as productive, nor a week earlier as some describe it. Any one wanting an early berry should try this as it may prove greatly superior to Mitchel in other places, as I have every reason to believe it does from reports that I have.

✓ **Enhance** [S] Medium to late, a long season, a good pollenizer, first berries irregular in shape, but become regular after a few pickings; from medium to large in size, a good shipper, and good plant maker.

✓ **Earliest** [S] I can discover no difference in this variety and Mitchel.

✓ **Greenville** [P] This is an old standard variety, well known all over the country; it is very productive. I have never known it to fail in making a large yield of berries; like the Bubach it is classed as soft, but they ship well in refrigerator cars; a medium plant maker of fine healthy plants.

✓ **Gandy** [S] I have never been very friendly to this berry on account of its unproductiveness with me. While a great many growers think it is the most profitable that they can grow. I still think, as I always have, that the "Aroma" is far superior to it. I have a large stock of Gandy plants, and don't think because I do not praise it, that I do not like to sell the plants.

✓ **Gardner** (S) Large stocky plants; favors the Clyde in general appearance, except that it makes much larger robust foliage, sufficient to give perfect protection from the sun to the berries. It is very productive; I do not know if it is not quite as productive as the Clyde. It will not have as many ripe berries on at one time as the Clyde, but lasts longer and I believe it will produce as much fruit, one season with another, as the Clyde. The Clyde will produce some larger berries than the Gardner, and some smaller. The Gardner is much more uniform in shape and size and I think it will average fully as large during the season. I have been fruiting the Clyde and Gardner side by side for several years and since the first year, I like the Gardner better than the Clyde. I use it extensively to pollinize Haverland.

✓ **Glen Mary** [S] Very weak in pollen; not fit to pollinize pistillates. It never has been extremely productive with me, while a great many describe it as being so. It is reasonably productive of nice, large berries and holds up well during the whole season. The longer I fruit this berry the better I like it; it never rusts with me to hurt its fruiting. It has a very robust, vigorous plant; a fair plant maker.

✓ **Hoffman** [S] This is nearly if not quite as early as Mitchel; some seasons it is more productive and others no more productive than the Mitchel; one great advantage it has, it does not make much more than half the plants that the Mitchel does, so it matures much larger and nicer fruit. It is generally quoted on the market from fifty cents to one dollar a crate more than the Mitchel, as it is larger, a better shipper and better looking berry.

✓ **Haverland** [P] This is my first choice of anything in the strawberry kingdom. This berry with me, not one year, but every year that I have fruited it, has without doubt been the most productive berry that I have had on my place; and in first quality of merchantable berries, no other has been in sight of it. I have had growers say to me if they could raise such Haverlands as I did they would never raise anything else; that my land just suited it. I have grown them on all kinds of land. I never have shown them any favors, they do not need it; but I never have tried them in a weed patch or a hay field, their dignity might rebel against such treatment. If you have not tried the Haverland, do so, for I feel confident you will be pleased with it.

✓ **Hero (S)** This is one of the newer varieties that have come to stay. I fruited it two years before it was introduced, and every year I like it better. It is not a prolific plant maker, makes just enough for a perfect fruiting row. It resembles the Bismark in foliage, color dark green. A very large rooted stocky plant. Berry dark red, from large to very large. Medium in ripening, and holds up well to last picking. I predict that this berry, when well known, will take its place at or near the top of our most popular varieties.

✓ **Jerry Rusk (S)** When the seasons are favorable this is a grand berry, but it does not like dry weather at fruiting time, as it sets so much fruit it cannot mature it in a dry time.

✓ **Johnson's Early (S)** Like all other extremely early berries, this is a shy bearer, makes more plants than any other variety I ever saw, but does not put out fruit stems on half the plants where they are very thick, (and I have never had them any other way.) I believe if the plants were kept thin it would prove a profitable variety, as it produces all nice large berries. I feel that I have never given this a fair trial. I notice others recommend it highly, and would recommend growers wanting an early berry to try in a small way at least.

✓ **Kansas (P)** Have not fruited it. A good plant maker, healthy foliage. Is highly recommended as being productive, from medium to large in size, from medium to late in ripening.

✓ **Lovett (S)** Very productive, medium in size, runs small the last part of season, a good plant maker and a good pollenizer for medium early pistillates.

✓ **Lady Thompson (S)** This variety is becoming more popular each year in this section, as well as in the south. I don't think that my trade has increased faster on any variety than it has on this. I have increased my planting each year but never have enough plants to supply the demand. I have three or four thousand for this season's trade, so do not hesitate about sending orders. It is a little earlier than Crescent, fairly productive, and lasts a long season, a fine shipper. While not an extremely large berry, it is large enough for any fancy trade, and holds up in size until every berry is gone. I have never seen it too dry during fruiting for it to mature its crop, in fact it appears to do better when we have a young drouth during fruiting.

✓ **Mele (P)** It is fully as productive as Crescent and I think a much superior berry in all respects; about the same season in ripening. It cannot be classed with the large berries, but is fully as large, if not larger than the Crescent. It holds up much better to the last picking;

some class it as soft, but it does not need to be a firm berry to replace the Crescent and it is fully as firm. Would like for all who are growing Crescent to try it, as I think you will like it much better. I tried its drouth resisting qualities last season and it is all any one could ask in that respect; it originated in Kansas. If the name of this berry was changed and a shower of printers' ink and five dollars a dozen were setting it in our berry fields, after it fruited, we would think we had a bonanza.

✓ **Mitchel** [S] Our oldest very early variety. It is being discarded by a great many on account of its size and shipping qualities, while some sections still use it nearly exclusively, like a great many other varieties it makes too many plants, and we allow them to become too thick for best results.

✓ **Mary** [P] This is an extremely large berry; the largest I have ever seen; a robust healthy plant, rather poor plant maker, productive, very firm for so large a berry, from medium to late. This berry, I think is very little known. It has been hard to get plants true to name. There has been some worthless Staminate variety sent broadcast over the country for the Mary. I now have a small stock of the genuine Mary, and any one wanting a large fancy berry, I think will be pleased with it.

✓ **Monitor** [S] Resembles the Capt. Jack in growth and foliage, no rust. Have not fruited it.

✓ **Parker Earle** [S] and Arnout's Improved Parker Earle are the same in every respect. The improved Crescent, the improved Gandy and all other improved plants that I have tried have proven that the improvement has been in the price of the plant only, and I have come to believe that that is what is meant. the price, not the plant, has been improved. Parker Earle is a very large, productive berry if all conditions are favorable. otherwise it will prove a failure. It must have very rich soil and plenty of moisture to mature its crop; when conditions just suit it is immense.

✓ **Pocomoke** [S] This is described as being of fair size, a good shipper, and very productive. Have not fruited it.

✓ **Paris King** [S] This plant sets too many berries to mature them unless season is favorable. If season is favorable it is productive of nice large fruit.

✓ **Rio** [S] A good pollenizer for early pistillates, as it is a prolific bloomer, very productive, from medium to large in size; good plant-maker.

✓ **Ridgeway** [S] I do not know of any thing of the recent introductions that I like as well as the Ridgeway. I believe it will prove to be one of

the most profitable varieties that we can grow for the market. It is very productive, it is not extremely large, but large enough to go as a fancy berry on any market. It is the most uniform in shape and size of any berry that I know, nearly all of each picking look like they had been molded in the same mold, painted and varnished by the hand of a careful and expert artist who was a master of mixing colors to suit the taste of the most critical connoisseur. The calyx is large and the most perfect and beautiful tint of green to suit the coloring of the berry. It has a fine flavor. It ripens from mid-season to very late, while it gives several pickings before Gandy and Aroma ripen. I have been picking it as late as either of them. I cannot believe that any grower can make a mistake in planting this variety; it is too late for a single pollenizer for most pistillates, but where two different pollenizers, early and late, are used this is a good one for late as it is a prolific bloomer.

✓ **Splendid** [S] This name possibly may express too much, but nevertheless it is a good variety, a good plant maker of nice healthy foliage, productive of from medium to large berries, a good pollenizer, mid-season.

✓ **Sample** [P] I have only fruited this one season, and that following a drouth. It did not impress me as being anything out of the ordinary. It is described as being large, productive, good quality, good shipper, from medium to late.

✓ **Tennessee Prolific** [S] It is both prolific in plants and fruit, a very healthy, robust plant, a good pollenizer for mid-season pistillates. I deem it one among the best of our old varieties.

✓ **Texas** [S] This is a new variety, introduced by the same man that originated the Excelsior. I fruited it last season and am very favorably impressed with it, both in foliage and fruit. While it favors the Excelsior in foliage and growth, it is not as prolific in plants, nor does not rust. With me last season it was more productive, fully as large or larger, and as firm as the Excelsior, also as early. It is dangerous to form an opinion from one year's test, but I do believe that this variety will take a high rank with our extremely early varieties, if it does not lead them all. My supply of plants of this variety is small, but would advise all that are hunting for a better early variety than we have, to try this in a small way.

✓ **Wolverton** (S) From medium to late, a nice large firm berry, a good pollenizer for late pistillates. It rusts some, not to hurt its fruiting, but after fruiting it sometimes rusts so that it makes but few plants.

✓ **Warfield** (P) This has been the leading variety in this section of country for a great many years; while it is losing the hold it once had, it is grown extensively yet. I think we have enough of superior varieties

that it might be discarded, but I do not look for that to be done for some time yet. I believe if it was kept properly thinned it would be a desirable variety, but as it is generally grown there are too many small berries to be profitable.

✓ **Young's Early Sunrise** [S] It is as early, it is as large, as productive, as firm, it looks like it, it tastes like it, the foliage is like it and I don't believe it is anything but the Mitchel.

✓ **Lucretia Dewberry** This is the earliest and best of the blackberry family, in my opinion, and would recommend it for this section of country in place of any other variety, on account of its size, its productiveness and its season; it commences to ripen about the last picking of our late strawberries, when fruit is becoming scarce and in good demand, at good prices, while other varieties are so late that tree fruit begins to go on the markets and prices are very low, and it has been very hard for me to get expenses out of the last half of my pickings.

Description of Varieties.

In giving descriptions of the different varieties, I have tried to give my honest opinion, after carefully noting their behavior on my own grounds, regardless of the opinions of any other persons. My only desire has been not to mislead or disappoint any one. I have, no doubt, condemned berries that do very well at other places and praised berries that do very poorly some where else. My descriptions are as I have seen them do. I like a variety best that does well everywhere. I have tried not to overpraise any variety and also have been free to condemn, as you will find that I have some that are not the "best." I am just as free to condemn a variety that I have heretofore praised myself as any other, if I discover that I have been wrong. I do object to going back from four to six years and giving the introducer's description, when nearly every later test has proven it a failure. To be as honest as we can, we will make plenty of mistakes without doing so wilfully.

PRICE LIST.

IMPORTANT Write your name, postoffice, county and state plainly, and be particular as to shipping directions.

Should you receive more than one of these catalogues, please hand the extra one to some person interested in fruit growing.

The varieties marked, "P" are pistillates or imperfect bloomers, and must have a staminate, or perfect bloomer, every third or fourth row to pollinize them.

	12 Pd Mail	100 Ex. not pd.	1000 ex not pd.		12 pd Mail	100 Ex. not pd.	1000 ex not pd.
Aroma S	\$ 25	40	2 50	Jerry Rusk S	\$ 30	60	4 00
Aug Luther S	50			Johnson's Early S	25	40	2 25
Bubach P	25	50	3 00	Kansas P	30	50	3 50
Bush Cluster P	35	75		Lovett S	25	40	2 25
Bobolink S	40	1 00		Lady Thompson S	25	40	2 25
Benoy S	30	60	4 00	Mele P	25	40	2 50
Beverly S	25	40	2 25	Mitchel's Early S	25	40	1 75
Bismark S	25	40	2 50	Mary P	30	60	4 00
Barton's Eclipse P	25	40	2 25	Monitor S	35	75	
Cyde S	25	50	3 00	Parker Earle P	30	60	3 50
Crescent P	25	40	1 75	Pocomoke S	35	75	
Darling S	25	40	1 75	Paris King S	25	50	3 00
Downing's Bride P	40	1 00	7 00	Rio S	25	40	2 00
Excelsior S	25	40	2 00	Ridgeway S	25	40	2 50
Enhance S	25	40	2 25	Splendid S	25	40	2 50
Earliest S	25	40	2 50	Sample P	30	60	4 00
Greenville P	25	40	2 25	Tenn. Prolific S	25	40	2 25
Gandy S	25	40	2 25	Texas S	50	1 50	10 00
Gardner S	25	40	2 75	Wolverton S	25	50	3 00
Gier Mary S	25	50		Warfield P	25	40	2 00
Hoffman S	25	40	2 00	Young's E Sunrise S	25	40	2 25
Haverland P	25	40	2 75	Lucretia Dewberry	50	1 00	7 00
Hero S	35	75	5 00	Snyder Blackberry	50	1 00	7 00

Will allow 50 and 500 of a kind at 100 and 1000 rates.

It by mail, add 25 cents per hundred. Dozen rates postpaid.

This list abrogates all former prices.

DISCOUNT. On all orders received before March 1st with cash in full, a discount of 5 per cent will be allowed from catalogue prices. This discount is good only until March 1st.

How to Grow Large Crops of Strawberries Without a Pedigree.

Selection of Ground.

Where conditions are such that you can have a choice in selecting the kind of land to suit best for a strawberry patch, select it nearly level just so it has a very gradual slope, sufficient to properly drain the water from it; if too-flat, water will stand on the berries in a wet time, and if too sloping hard rains will wash ditches between or across the rows. If steep hill sides have to be used don't run rows up and down the hill lengthwise, but sideways with the hill; it is better for the water to cut ditches across the rows than between them, as it is impossible to cultivate satisfactorily with rows standing on ridges.

Kind of Soil.

While any kind of soil that will produce any kind of a crop will produce strawberries, don't expect to get a very large crop of berries from

very poor soil as it won't make it. Your yield will be in proportion to the fertility of your soil, other conditions being equal. Ground that will produce an average crop of thirty to forty bushels of corn to the acre in this section, is considered good berry land, and will produce on an average, 200 crates per acre without any fertilizing. Use the richest ground that you have and your crop will be in proportion, both in quantity and quality, like other crops. But if your neighbor has poorer land than you and cultivates and tends his berries better, and raises larger berries and more of them, don't say that poor land is best, but that labor is justly rewarded. If soil is poor manure and work it in well before setting out your plants.

Preparing Ground.

Ground should be broken as soon as the crop that you are going to follow with berries is harvested, and if stubble, either sown in peas, to be turned under to enrich the ground, or cultivated sufficient to keep any weeds from going to seed during summer and fall. About two or three weeks before time to set plants, as you catch ground in right condition, re-break very deep, ten inches if possible, but don't harrow until time to set plants. If you get a rain on the ground before time to prepare it for plants it will be a great help, as it is very hard to get dry, loose, broken ground in right condition without. When ready to set out plants, thoroughly pulverize the soil as deep as possible, the deeper and finer you get the soil the better it will retain moisture, and be more available for feeding plants. Use a roller or drag for packing your ground and making it smooth and level. I prefer a plank drag for last working as it fills up the horse tracks much better and leaves the ground far smoother and level. Don't work your ground at any time while wet. Take great pains in preparing the ground, for like all other work in a strawberry field, it can not be done too good, for best results.

Selecting Plants.

If you have grown your own plants, don't use anything but the very best, and only from new beds. If you are buying your plants from some one else, you should be very careful about placing your order. Don't make the price the first consideration that is important. But, "Am I getting what I ordered" is much more important. If you are located so that only early varieties pay, and you order Excelsior plants, and receive Gandy, you can readily realize the great loss you would sustain, and you should guard as much as possible against this, and not buy plants from any one that will not guarantee their plants true to name, and not mixed, and also investigate and find out whether the person making the guarantee is responsible and honest enough to make their guarantee good. I realize that refunding the money or replacing the plants does not cover the great loss that is sustained, but it does cause a responsible plant dealer to be more careful to keep his fields pure. There needs to be more care used this season than usual. Last season

plants were very scarce, and people bought from any one that would sell, regardless of the purity of the plants; also the season has been very wet, and plenty of fields are a solid mat, all run together. No doubt there will be plenty of these plants offered for sale "cheap" as it would be better for the fruit if the middles were dug out, (even if they are mixed.) Be very careful about handling your plants, not to get them mixed; have every bunch labeled with name of variety, and leave label in bunch until ready to use.

Selecting Varieties.

This is a very important question and should have your most careful consideration. It is possible that on this one question alone depends your success or failure in the strawberry business, and you should take time and deliberate carefully before deciding on your selection. If you were only putting out plants for one year's crop it would not matter so much, but here we generally fruit a field from three to five years, so that makes it more important. Now in making your selection don't have just one idea in mind, and that in regard to productiveness, that is important but no more so than others. I believe size is the most essential point in selecting and should be the first consideration. Did you ever read an article written by a strawberry grower in a bragging frame of mind and telling about receiving ten cents a quart more for his berries than any of his neighbors, claiming that it was on account of the productiveness of his berries? No, it was always on account of the size. Did you ever hear of a man sending strawberries to the market and getting a poor price because they were too large? Never! But I think you know of growers receiving very unsatisfactory returns on account of their berries being small. We all know these things to be facts. Why not profit by our knowledge? I think it advisable for every fruit grower to try some of the most promising new varieties in a small way so that if they prove superior to our older ones, we will know whether they will suit our condition of soil, climate, etc., and not wait until some of our more progressive neighbors force us to use them or quit the business.

QUALITY. I never pay any attention to the quality of a strawberry; in fact, I do not care what the quality is. This delicious flavor we hear so much about—"who does it suit"? If it suits me, you might not want to eat it; our tastes are different, much more so than our eyes. If a berry is large, has a good shape and a beautiful color, the eye is pleased with it and I think the eye has a great influence on the palate and it will be satisfied, if not, just the right quantity of sugar and cream will do the work. For illustration, take the Ben Davis Apple: There has been ink enough thrown at it to make it as black as sin, just because it did not suit some one's taste, but it has gone on climbing until it has reached the top round and is shining brighter than ever. Talk about quality, "bah!" Who ever saw a large, beautiful, ripe strawberry that was not fit for the "gods?"

ONE OR MORE VARIETIES. To save a great deal of corresponding, I will state here that I can not advise parties at a distance what variety or varieties will be the most profitable for them to grow. I do not know their conditions and it would be impossible for me to advise them intelligently, as the location and competition must govern this wholly. There are locations, no doubt, where the earliest, others where medium early, and others where the latest berries pay the best, owing to competition, but as a general thing, where you have a home market, or as we are situated here, I would advise protracting the season as long as possible for the reason some seasons the early and others the late berries bring the most money; while the medium hardly ever bring as high a price as one of the others, it generally brings as high or higher than the other one and the yield of the medium is so much larger that it frequently pays the best even at a lower price. As our conditions are here, I would not advise any one to grow for market just one season berries, three chances are better than one and my advice is take three.

When to Set.

Set plants as early in the spring as ground will do to put in condition, and danger of freezing is over. Freezing does not hurt the plants if it is not hard enough to heave them out of the ground and expose the roots to the air. I would sooner take chances on a hard freeze early, while the ground is moist and cool, than risk a dry, windy, hot time later in the season. If a strawberry plant once gets well established and starts to grow and is well cultivated it can hardly be killed except by a white grub eating it up. From middle to last of March is the best time in this latitude, while some seasons it will do even earlier. I believe I can sow strawberries broadcast and harrow them in, in March, and get a better stand than the man will who sets after May 10th with the greatest of care. A great many people have the impression that one time is as good as another to set plants, judging from the orders I have received. And I might say right here that I positively will not sell plants between the 10th of May and the 1st of October. I am perfectly willing for those who recommend putting out plants in those months to sell them, as I will have enough to answer for in the hereafter without that charge being brought up against me.

How to Pollenize.

Where your pistillate varieties are prolific plant makers, and you allow them to set too thick in row, you should use staminate with the same tendency as much as possible. My observation leads me to believe that the principal cause of so many buttons and poorly developed berries is on account of not sufficient pollenization; and this is the effect of pistillates being allowed to make plants out of proportion to the power of

the staminate that are used, to produce plants and blooms. While it is safe to use a perfect flowering sort every fourth row with an imperfect bloomer, that is a poor plant maker like the Bubach—such plant makers as Warfield, Barton's, etc., should be fertilized every third row for best results. I would recommend using two pollenizers of different seasons for all pistillates. For instance, for a pistillate classed as medium, you should use a staminate classed as early, and another as medium to late. By doing this, if from any cause the bloom of one is damaged, you have another chance for fertilizing. It is not always the early bloom that is damaged the worst by frosts, or cold rains, it is the condition the bloom is in at the time of danger; when a bloom first opens out it points directly upwards, ready to be damaged in the most vital part, later, it commences to turn down out of danger. As far as you can, select staminate that will correspond with the pistillates in size, shape, color, etc. If there is a close resemblance in these particulars it will be much more convenient in picking, as they will not have to be kept separate. I am willing to admit that this is hard to do with our present knowledge, but am in hopes that in the near future, our staminate varieties will be equal, if not better, than our pistillates in all respects.

Setting Plants.

There is no iron clad rule that can be laid down for setting plants, as there are a dozen different modes practiced and each one believes his way the best. I have always used a line until this last season and thought it the best but last season I concluded to use some fertilizer, so I changed from line and used a corn planter with fertilizer attachment to lay off my rows and sow my fertilizer and it worked to perfection. I like the planter better than the line; the wheels pack the ground and pulverize the clods, if any, and make it very nice to set the plants. One would naturally think that sowing a single row of fertilizer where the plants were set would not be of much use to the new plants set a foot away, but we must bear in mind that the new plants get more or less of their food from the mother plant and apparently it works as well as though the fertilizer was sown the full width of the row. I drop plants by guess, from two to three feet apart; poor plant makers two feet, and prolific ones three feet apart. In setting plants you cannot be too careful about the depth. They must be set deep enough so that no part of root is exposed to air or sun, and not so deep that the crown is covered with dirt. Don't allow plants dropped faster than dibblers can use them and keep them protected by a wet cloth in a basket. Never expose plants to sun or air an instant more than necessary. Don't leave your plants unprotected and then cuss me or some other man because they don't grow. They will not do it, so you need not experiment any on this line.

Cultivating.

Cultivate as soon as possible after setting, the same day if convenient. Cultivate often. If you have ground that packs and runs together bad, it may be necessary to cultivate two or three times a week, after a hard beating rain, to get your ground in proper condition. Where ground is packed hard, as soon as dry enough, plow shallow the first time so as not to break ground up cloddy, follow immediately before it gets too dry, and cultivate as deep as possible, then shallow again to level down. You will need to cultivate twenty or thirty times, owing to kind of season, for best results. Cultivate from time you set out plants until killing frosts. Don't ridge your plants, they will naturally do that, but work the dirt away from row, and keep as level as possible. By doing this it will be much better for your first crop, and leave rows in better condition for renewing for second crop. After setting out plants, cultivate as close to them as you can without disturbing the roots. Allow first runners to set until you have a row formed not to exceed eighteen to twenty-two inches in width, that is as wide as you can permit and have plenty of room between for picking. It is true that most of our scientists on strawberry culture advise us to keep runners cut off until about the first of August, to allow the mother plant to become well established before setting any runners. Now, the theory may be alright, but does not appear sensible to me. We are depending just as much on each of twenty or more runners, that we get from the mother plant, to make a crop of berries, as from her. Then is it not better to let the first runners set and give the plants a chance to make a good growth, as well as the parent? No danger of a plant putting out runners until it is well established. When runners first form pull them around with cultivator until you have row filled between hill first. Always plow the row same way each time. After filling in between the hills run the cultivator a little further from plants each plowing, until you have a row of proper width, then attach rolling cutters to cultivator and keep runners cut off balance of the season. Don't wait too long between plowings while runners are forming fast, or you will get your row too thick. Try to get plants set in the rows from four to six inches apart, that is as close as they should be to produce fine berries. Keep blooms cut off the first year, if the plants are allowed to fruit it stops the growth and consumes much of the vitality. Everything possible is to be done with the cultivator, but you will have to do a great deal of hoeing also, your first hoeing between the hills wants to be good and deep, to get the ground that has been packed, well loosened up, but be careful not to disturb the plants. Keep your field perfectly clear of weeds the whole season, early as well as late. If you allow the weeds and grass to get the start of you at any time you may become discouraged. Never stop hoeing and cultivating because

there are no weeds. If you have ground so poor that weeds will not grow, there is the more need of work, to change the particles of earth and get some fresh food where the plants can reach it or they will starve. I believe that intensive cultivation without fertilizing, is better than poor cultivating and plenty of fertilizing, both are much better than either alone.

Mulching.

If you have only an acre or two of berries, you can wait until the ground freezes hard, but if you have several acres would advise you to commence mulching as soon as frosts are hard enough to check the growth of plants and turn the foliage brown. Mulching is slow work if you have to haul the material quite a distance, it is better to commence early in winter. During cold, wet weather it is disagreeable work and you cannot make much progress. Every berry grower ought to mulch sufficient to keep the berries clean. We commence here about the middle of November. Wheat straw is used principally—the objection to it being that the wheat and cheat left in the straw grows during the winter and sometimes causes considerable damage to berries during the fruiting time. Prairie hay is much more preferable, if one is situated so they can afford to use it. In this latitude I do not think it necessary to mulch for winter protection. The rank foliage of our matted rows, seems to me, to be sufficient to protect the plants from heaving. One ton of straw or prairie hay carefully spread over the rows, is sufficient to keep berries clean, but two or even three tons won't hurt, if raked off between the rows as soon as plants start to grow in the spring. And if it should be dry during picking, the heavy mulching will be much the best, as it will keep the ground moist much longer.

Picking.

If you have followed the instructions that I have given you in my weak way, and you are convinced that I do not know it all, nor that you did not know all about the business, but have been studying and learning all you can about the matter, and putting your knowledge into practice, it will be a grand success—it cannot be otherwise except by providential hinderance. On the other hand, if you have been sitting around town for the last twelve months, whittling dry goods boxes and exchanging lies with your neighbor, who thinks it is better for strawberries if he sits in the shade than work them when it is dry and hot, and that a few drops of sweat from his brow would have hurt them worse than grass and weeds knee high, in the nature of things it is a failure. There could be volumes written on this one question of picking, but I will touch it lightly. Have everything ready before time to commence picking. Don't think of hauling your berries in a wagon without springs. Use no dirty packages to ship in. Have your crates and trays, or carriers, ready.

Make those during the winter while you are resting. Don't allow more than four quarts to be taken out in tray, as it keeps berries exposed too long to hot sun. Try to grade berries in the field, if they need grading. Every time you touch a berry you damage it. Fill quarts well when packing in crates. Pick every day that is fit after the season is fairly started; if you wait one day and it rains the next, you may not get your field cleaned up well again during the season, and will always have more or less soft berries.

Renewing.

As soon as you are done picking, mow vines close to ground. After two or three days, if it has been dry and hot, set fire to field and burn off all mulch, etc. If you have mulched heavily, the fire will run over all the field, otherwise you will only be able to burn between the rows and along the edges. After this treatment, with a turning plow run a furrow on each side of the rows, throwing the dirt away from the plants. Plow as deep as possible, and leave plants about eight inches wide in row. Run a harrow once lengthwise with the rows, then turn and harrow crossways until the ground is leveled down and plants well thinned out in the rows. Work dirt back to plants with your cultivator, and split the middle between the rows with a large single shovel plow. It is necessary that all the work in renewing should be done as quickly as possible to keep the plants from drying out. If this method is closely followed, your bed is practically new again, and should be tended from now on as carefully as during the first season.

Over Production of Strawberries.

This question of over production will regulate itself. If you don't keep at the top or near there, it will force you out of the business and some one will take your place and hold it if he has the disposition and energy to climb upward. I don't believe there is any more talk here to-day, not so much, in fact, in proportion to the number occupied in the business as there was fifteen years ago, about over production, when the crop wouldn't have loaded a car. There was less trouble to find a market for the 230 cars shipped from here in 1897, than there was when only a few hundred crates were raised, and before cars were used. There will be an over production for the next twenty years, and perhaps longer, of a certain class of inferior berries, and if you have made up your mind and won't change it, to raise that class, as a friend, though perhaps a stranger, my advice is, don't go into the business, and if you are in, slip out as soon as you can, before the inevitable law of nature forces you out. You must love the business and take a pride in it, in my opinion to succeed.